

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claim 6, the sole claim in the case, has been substantially amended.

Claim 6 (currently amended) recites a unique combination of structural elements and cooperative relationships therebetween which are not taught or suggested by Scott, U.S. Patent No. 2,103,957, or other known prior art.

Claim 6 now recites that the handheld pet animal bathing utensil is for simultaneously delivering a plurality of streams of flowing water to an animal's fur coat, some of the streams delivered to the base of the animal's fur coat and other of the streams simultaneously delivered to the outer portion of the animal's fur coat to displace entrapped insulation air in the animal's fur coat and effectively bathe the animal.

The claim now recites that the housing has a housing surface with an inner housing surface portion and an outer peripheral housing surface portion surrounding the inner housing surface portion. This feature is clearly shown in the application drawings. The claim now further states that the housing surface defines an array of spaced water exit ports in fluid flow communication with the chamber and located within the inner housing surface portion in a first common plane occupied generally by the housing surface.

The claim now states that the utensil further includes an array of spaced rigid tubular extensions projecting outwardly from the outer peripheral housing surface portion and in fluid flow communication with the chamber, the array of spaced, rigid tubular extensions surrounding the array of spaced ports and the spaced, rigid tubular extensions having open distal ends spaced from the ports and disposed in a second common plane spaced from and disposed outwardly of the first common plane and said ports.

The claimed spaced, rigid tubular extensions are of sufficient length to penetrate the animal's fur coat and deliver water from the chamber to the base of the animal's fur coat through the open distal ends thereof when the ports deliver water from the chamber to the outer fur coat. The rigid tubular extensions are described as being operable to create a cushion of water over the animal's skin reducing friction between the utensil and the animal and cooperable with the animal's fur coat to reduce pressure and velocity of water after exiting the ports and open distal ends to reduce splashing and enabling gravity to direct excess water from the bathing utensil down a side or sides of the animal.

Claim 6 now also states that the ports are operable to relieve water pressure in the chamber when the open distal ends of the rigid tubular extensions are blocked.

The device of Scott is very different from applicant's claimed invention and the Scott device cannot possibly operate in the manner of applicant's invention. In applicant's invention, water is applied by the claimed ports to the outer fur coat while the rigid tubular extensions simultaneously deliver streams of water to the base of the animal's fur coat. Applicant's arrangement results in thorough washing of the animal's coat while functioning in such a manner as to reduce splashing. The rigid tubular extensions are operable to create a cushion of water over the animal's skin reducing friction between the utensil and the animal and are cooperable with the animal's fur coat to reduce pressure and velocity of water after exiting both the ports and the open distal ends to reduce splashing and enabling gravity to direct excess water from the bathing utensil down a side or sides of the animal.

The rigid tubular extensions and the water exiting the rigid tubular extensions essentially surrounds the water passing through the ports at the outer fur coat area to greatly reduce any splashing by the water exiting the ports, excess water from both the ports and the rigid tubular extensions flowing in a controlled manner under the influence of gravity down a side or sides of the animal.

Now claimed, the ports of the utensil are also operable to relieve water pressure in the chamber when the open distal

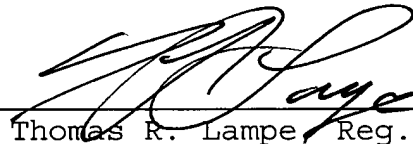
ends of the rigid tubular extensions are blocked. This can occur, for example, when the ends of the extensions engage the animal's skin. Even when this happens, the bathing process continues.

The other references of record again have been studied and are not considered relevant to the invention as now claimed.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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